

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A grasper adapted to be mounted to a lifter for inverting and dumping a refuse receptacle, the grasper comprising:

a support carried by the lifter;

a first gripper arm pivotally carried by the support ;

a second gripper arm pivotally carried by the support, the first and second gripper arms being pivotable between a first position in which the first gripper arm is spaced apart from the second gripper arm for receiving the refuse receptacle therebetween and second position in which the first and second gripper arms lay generally flat against the support for storage; and

an actuator secured to the support for moving the gripper arms between the first and second positions.

2. The grasper of claim 1 wherein the second gripper arm nests in the first gripper arm when the gripper arms are in the second position.

3. The grasper of claim 2 wherein the first gripper arm defines an opening sized to receive the second gripper arm when the gripper arms are in the second position.

4. A grasper adapted to be mounted to a lifter for inverting and dumping a refuse receptacle, the grasper comprising:

a support carried by the lifter;

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a first gripper arm pivotally carried by the support,  
the first gripper arm defining an elongated arm-receiving region;

a second gripper arm pivotally carried by the support,  
the first and second gripper arms being moveable between a first  
position in which the first and second gripper arms are spaced  
apart for receiving a refuse receptacle therebetween and second  
position in which the first and second gripper arms are  
positioned generally adjacent the support, with the second  
grripper arm located in the arm-receiving region of the first arm;  
and

an actuator carried by the support for moving the  
grripper arms between the first and second positions.

5. The grasper of claim 4 wherein the first gripper arm  
comprises a pair of members defining a space therebetween and the  
second gripper arm nests in the space defined by the first  
grripper arm when the gripper arms are in the second position.

6. The grasper of claim 4 wherein each gripper arm defines  
a fixed end secured to its respective pivot and a free end  
opposed to the fixed end, the gripper arms being sized in length  
so that the ends extend beyond the support when in the second  
position.

7. The grasper of claim 6 wherein each gripper arm has a  
generally linear portion extending from the fixed end that lays  
generally flat against the support in the second position and an  
angled portion at the free end that lays behind the plain defined  
by the support when in the second position.

8. The grasper of claim 4 wherein the actuator comprises a hydraulic cylinder.

9. A carriage adapted to be mounted to a lifter for inverting and dumping a refuse receptacle, the carriage comprising:

a frame structure pivotally mounted to the lifter;

first gripper arm moveably mounted to the frame structure by a first pivot, the first and second gripper arms being generally in alignment and in spaced relation and adapted to move in unison about the first pivot;

a third rigid gripper arm moveably mounted to the frame structure by a second pivot or movement about the second pivot, the first, second and third gripper arms being moveable between a first position in which the first and second gripper arms are spaced apart from the third gripper arm for receiving the refuse receptacle and second position in which the first, second, and third gripper arms lay generally flat against the frame structure for storage; and

an actuator secured to the frame structure for moving the gripper arms between the first and second positions.

10. The carriage of claim 9 wherein the third gripper arm nests in the space between the first and second gripper arms when the gripper arms are in the second position.

11. The carriage of claim 9 wherein each gripper arm defines a fixed end secured to its respective pivot and a free end opposed to the fixed end, the gripper arms being sized in

length so that the ends extend beyond the frame structure when in the second position.

12. The carriage of claim 11 wherein each gripper arm has a generally linear portion extending from the fixed end that lays generally flat against the frame structure in the second position and an angled portion at the free end that lays behind the plain defined by the face plate when in the second position.

13. The carriage of claim 9 wherein the actuator comprises a hydraulic cylinder.